

PRESENTS

LIFE ELEVATED

ERIC ROYER

How'd you get involved with the Nitro Circus?

Dorothy Anderson, who lives in Salt Lake and is a friend of mine, has filmed with GoPro Entertainment, the founder of Nitro Circus for 10-plus years. He has seen a lot of my skiing and ski BASE stuff and was always like, "lets hook you up with Trek." I said, "You tell me when and where, and I'll be there." I got a call in the spring four years ago asking if I would help these guys BASE-jump dirt bikes in the Grand Canyon. I was on plane a week later. I met up with everyone there and we all got along really well, and we've been goofing off ever since.

Are there times when you're preparing for a stunt and you really question what you're doing?

Oh, yeah. I didn't grow up in that world of motorized vehicles. I'm so foreign to all that stuff and I haven't spent much time doing it. So, its fun for them to have someone without the experience who they can push to do stuff. I'm willing to try a little bit more here and there. Whereas, in the first season I was like a deer in the headlights. I wasn't really willing to throw my body completely to the wind.

As a skier you take calculated risks. Is it really calculated when you're jumping a triple over a motorcycle jump?

No. I'm by far the most calculated person on the crew. I think things through and I like to plan things out. They tease me about it all the time because I don't just go on whatever it is and cross my fingers and send it—which is what happens most of the time with these people.

Whose idea was it to go to the Utah Olympic Park in Park City?

I've always suggested it. We tried to do it the first season but ran out of time. The producers are based out of Utah and they ski, too. They thought it was a great idea and when they gave us the green light to do what we wanted up there, everyone was in.

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RACHAEL BURKS

What's your philosophy on going big?

Rachael: Be smart and safe, and don't be afraid to push your limits. But, you have to know your limits at the same time.

How does your mindset change when filming as opposed to just skiing on your own?

When I'm filming, I like to do something that other people are going to want to watch. Sometimes when I'm filming by myself, I like to go things that other people like to watch, too, but when there's a camera, 99% percent of the time I'm trying to do something cool.

Are there certain challenges to being "the girl" on a film crew?

I would call it a challenge. I don't ever want to hold anyone back. I want to be someone that's pushing the guys. Being the female gives me extra motivation to get it done. I like to be the one that's pushing them to go.

What, if anything, is holding women's skiing back right now?

I think women are holding women's skiing back. They are choosing to reach a certain point and be satisfied with it. They get a sense of themselves because there aren't many women out there, they're getting paid as an athlete, and they really do enjoy it. And then they'll stop. They'll get a better day's work and a tendency to want to cut-up each other and women just kind of go against.

Do you think there will be a point where you say, "OK, I'm good enough?"

Not no. I'm going to reach a point where I'm done, but I'm never going to reach a point where I'm good enough.

You've spent some time in France. What is one aspect of skiing in the Alps that you would bring home to Utah?

Definitely in France, you have jumps where you can't fall because there's a

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SAGE CATTABRIGA-ALOSA

When you're skiing a really big, burly line what's the mental plan and how does that change throughout?

SAGE: It's super important to have several things planned out—where you'd like to go, where you might go, and how you get out. It never looks the same once you get on top. You look across and it's like, "I'm gonna hit that thing, go around that rock, then I'm gonna hit that air. Easy. Lets do that." You get on there and you're like, "Wait, what did I say? I was gonna do?" I've learned to keep it simple and pick a couple landmarks as places that I want to go. You're always adjusting. All of a sudden the slough is way faster and it's caught you, and now you gotta point it, and you're going too fast. You're adjusting the plan as you go.

Is there one run that stands out as your ultimate accomplishment?

SAGE: Last year, when we were filming for *Under the Influence* and I skied that Hotel Room line. It was one of the greatest lines I ever hit. I was scared... a lot. When I first dropped in, it was like, "Oh, ok, this feels good." And then there was a moment where it was like "uh-oh"—the slough was pulling me. I was finally seeing the end of the run and it was exhilaration beyond belief. It was this moment of freedom, of accomplishment, of stress relief, of excitement. That moment—I'll never forget that.

What do you look for in a line?

SAGE: I like to play with the terrain. Having all the new ski technology has allowed me that much more freedom. Over time, I've started to find myself more comfortable in wider, wilder terrain—whether it's spine or pillow or whatever. I think a lot of that has to do with the new technology we have in skis.

What makes the Rossignol S7 such an ideal ski for you?

SAGE: It's so versatile and it's a really friendly ski. It makes everything easy. When you're on greatly, hard snow, you can rip across it easily. You can schmeer a turn, slash it, turn, and then carve a really GS turn after that. I used to be left turn, right turn, edge, edge, and now there's so much more you can do.

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JEREMY JONES

Where did you grow up?

I grew up in Farmington, Utah. Slowly, I migrated south and now I reside in Sandy, Utah. It's a great place. I miss Farmington from time to time, but I miss the way it was when I was growing up ya' know?

As a husband, father and professional snowboarder, do you find it hard to balance your intensive year round travel schedule and still spend time with your family?

It has its moments of toughness for sure! My lovely bride and I have done pretty well in making agreements and coming with solutions for things when the traveling seems to be real loaded down. She is a great support and I spend almost all my time with my kids when I am home, so it balances itself out pretty well.

How do you feel about snowboarding being pushed in the direction of mass market and commercialization?

It is what it is man! Having a strong feeling about it would frustrate me. I think, cause it's something that one person could probably never change. It has its good and bad points I feel. Overall, it introduces more people to the sport so, in the end, it helps fuel the core of snowboarding. That is good for everyone involved I would say.

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LOUIE VITO

Growing up in Ohio, did you aspire to move to Utah?

Well, after living in Ohio and then spending my high school years in Vermont, I just wanted to move out west. My senior year I spent quite a bit of time out in Salt Lake just riding and hanging out. Utah has some of the best snow on earth and a lot of different resorts. Plus, if you live in SLC, you're 30 minutes from the mountains, and the airport is close, which makes coming and going super easy.

How did you get on "Dancing With the Stars"?

A friend of mine who is an agent asked if I wanted to do an interview last summer. I was just getting ready to get surgery on my meniscus so I thought I would entertain the idea. Things went well and they were stoked. I didn't fit for that season, but they told me they wanted to get me on at some point. I thought maybe if I made the Olympics, but this spring they reached out to me and asked if I was interested.

What is it like going from a celebrity in the snowboard world to a celebrity in pop culture?

Hahaha. I haven't really seen or felt anything new yet. I am just doing everything the same as I normally do.

When you were a kid riding in the Midwest, did you ever imagine that you would be where you currently are today?

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TORSTEIN HORGMO

You made quite an entrance into the snowboard world. How has life changed for you in the past few years?

My life has changed dramatically in the past few years. I've gained a lot of experience in snowboarding and life in general through traveling and meeting a lot of new people. A lot of my dreams have become a reality and I've achieved many of the goals I set for myself. I have also realized that what I put away my schoolbooks for to get away from reality and do what I wanted the most has become my life and my job.

Why do you love Park City, Utah?

I ride Park City for their amazing park and good snow conditions. I have a blast riding there, straight up!

How do you think the 2002 Olympics changed things?

I wasn't able to ride PCMR before the Olympics but that year so I don't know about the changes that happened, but I'm pretty sure after that event they were able to maintain their superpipe and their many parks in great condition every day of the season.

How do you feel about snowboarding in general?

I think it's gonna get way more mainstream, which isn't all bad. I hear Louie Vito is doing real well on "Dancing With the Stars." You know, especially at times like these, some small snowboard companies are struggling right now and big corporate companies are starting to get more involved.

How convenient is it to get in and out of Salt Lake with such a strong airport schedule?

I spend most of my season in the States and you can pretty much fly direct into Salt Lake City from anywhere. It's super easy. Then I just pick up my truck and I'm in up in the mountains in 30 minutes.

Why do you think DC decided to build their infamous Mountain Lab training facility in Utah?

Honestly, I have no idea but I think it's awesome. We have a pretty sweet setup up there!

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